

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] Liepaja was declared a fortified city immediately after its capitulation to the Soviet Army late in World War II. At that time, road barriers were set up on the Liepaja-Grobina highway, between the 3rd and 4th km. markers, several hundred meters west of the Saules farm, and on the Liepaja-Bernate highway, at the 6th km. marker, near the Dzintarnieku farmhouse, which was occupied by frontier guards making road inspections here.

25X1

2. Early in 1952, Liepaja was proclaimed a military port. In approximately August 1952, the road control guards were removed from the Saules and Dzintarnieku farms. Persons who were not registered as permanent residents were prohibited from staying in Liepaja.

3. A frontier guard statue was erected at the Dzintarnieku and Saules farms. It was concrete, painted white, and represented a frontier guard and a dog. A small area around the statue was planted with flowers.

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4. [redacted] During elections, the city is divided into numbered districts. [redacted] numbers are changed from one election to the next. It is possible that certain streets and buildings make up an election district and that only the numbering system changes.

5. The city canal was separated from the city by a barbed wire fence which began at the canal bridge and ran in the direction of the sea. In Vecliepaja, the old part of the city, this fence extended along the railroad tracks, which were also separated from the city, as far as the former customhouse. In Jaunliepaja, the new part of the city, this fence extended beyond the city power station and the cork and linoleum factory, turning north on Litas iela to Kaiju iela and continuing west on Kaiju iela.

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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6. There was also a barbed wire fence at the square in Vecliepaja, at the end of Padomju prospekt, between the casino and the sea. Formerly, there was a small elevation at this point and plans had been made to build a concert stage here. Later, there were four antiaircraft guns on this elevation, with barracks next to them.

7. It was forbidden to walk along the southern mole, a favorite spot of Liepaja residents. There was an antiaircraft battery with four antiaircraft guns at the end of the south mole of the commercial port, which was installed in 1952.

8. Another barbed wire fence was located in the area directly south of the city hospital. Here, the wire fence began at the beach, went along Sunu iela up to about Uzvaras iela (formerly Ulina) and turned south, surrounding a fairly large area covered with shrubs. [ ] coast artillery guns were installed here. Swimming was allowed in Vecliepaja only between the northern end of the city hospital and a place located approximately halfway between the city bathing establishment and the casino. 25X1

9. After sunset, it was forbidden to walk along the beach, even in the non-restricted zone. In Jaunliepaja, swimming was permitted only in the area between the north mole of the commercial port and the southern end of the branch of this mole, which, with the exception of a few piles, is almost non-existent.

10. In the city itself, military units were installed in several places, both in residential buildings and in barracks. Armed guards were stationed in these quarters. An infantry unit was located at the corner of Apsu (formerly Debura) and Darzu iela in the former barracks. At the corner of these streets which was nearest the sea, the greater part of a city block was occupied by a large square where military and amphibious motor vehicles were stationed.

11. On Stendera iela between Imanta Sudmala (formerly Kungu) and Pumpura (formerly Pasta) iela, on the east side of the street, frontier guards were stationed in a residential building.

12. An infantry unit was stationed in Jaunliepaja, at the north end of Lazareva iela, at the corner of Baseina iela, on the sea side.

13. Northeast of the Liepaja railroad station, on Emilijas iela, between the street and the railroad tracks, a prison was installed in a three-story brick building, which could easily be seen from a passing train. The windows of this building were covered with funnel-shaped (sic) shutters. The light entered the windows from the top, but the prisoners were unable to see out. A railroad militia man was stationed as a guard in front of this building. There was no prison here formerly.

14. Other prisons in Liepaja were located at No. 14 Darza iela and on Tiesas iela, in the former women's prison which was being used for soldiers. 25X1

15. There was only one military commissariat (voyenkomat) in Liepaja. It was located on Padomju prospekt (formerly Kurmajas), at the corner of Elkonus iela. [ ] It was a two-story stone building of an undetermined color. There was a small garden between the building and Padomju prospekt. The entrance was from the corner of Padomju prospekt and Elkonus iela (see sketch), and there was a sign in Russian at the entrance. All the employees were Russians and the chief had the rank of colonel. In the summer of 1952, the military commissariat drafted white ticket holders (belyy bilet) for a three-year period in labor units. One lame worker from the Sarkanais metallurgs plant who was drafted was sent to some place beyond Moscow in a labor unit. 25X1

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16. The militia headquarters were located at No. 7 Skriveru iela (formerly Rakstvesu), in the building of the former Liepaja police department. The chief of militia was in this building, as was the motor vehicle inspection office of the MVD.

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[redacted] militia division of Vecliepaja was located on Ramavas iela, directly opposite St. Anne's Church. Passport and housing matters, including registration of persons moving in and out of buildings, were handled here.

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[redacted] the address bureau for the whole city was in this building. The militia division for Jaunliepaja was on Teodora Breiksa iela (Valujeva), opposite the market place.<sup>2</sup> It was in the third house from Bodes iela. The Liepaja Rayon militia was located in Vecliepaja, at the southwest corner of Toma and Republikas (formerly Nikolaja) iela, in the building known as the "Blue Wonder" (Zilais brinums). There was an inquiry address bureau in this building, where one could find out the addresses of persons residing in Liepaja Rayon upon payment of 20 kopeks. Information could be requested by mail by enclosing a 20-kopek postage stamp with a letter.

17. In May 1945, during the "screening" operation in Kurzeme (Courland), men in the city of Liepaja itself were not arrested. Arrests took place only in the countryside. In the vicinity of Liepaja, the arrested men were herded on foot to Liepaja, where they were placed in "emigrant houses" in Jaunliepaja, two large horseshoe-shaped buildings about 400 meters west of the railroad station. From here, the arrested members of the Latvian Legion and apparently some civilians were driven on foot to Jelgava. From there, they were sent to non-Baltic parts of the USSR. Most of the civilians were sent beyond Leningrad for construction work on the White Sea Canal. The work was very hard. Persons who became ill and were unable to work were returned as early as 1946. Most of them returned in 1947. No personal identification documents were issued to these persons. Upon discharge, they received statements indicating permission to return to former places of residence. Upon arrival at their places of residence, personal identification documents, usually temporary certificates of identity, were issued. Returnees were not restricted in any way as to their places of residence or work. This labor was not regarded as punishment and was not recorded in identification documents.

18. Although the Soviets blew up a munitions train in the vicinity of the railroad station during 1944-1945 air attacks, the buildings around the station were not severely damaged. The only building destroyed during the war was the one on the railroad square, at the corner of Augustes and Dzelscelnieku (formerly Riga) iela.

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1. [redacted] Comment. A notice in the newspaper "Cina" stated that during the 1953 elections the 11th election district was in the Sarkanais metalurgs plant building, but in 1954 the 17th election district was in this building.

2. [redacted] Comment. The city block indicated on the map between Valujeva, Tirkus, Suvorova, and Suvalova iela no longer exists. This place is now the Jaunliepaja market place.

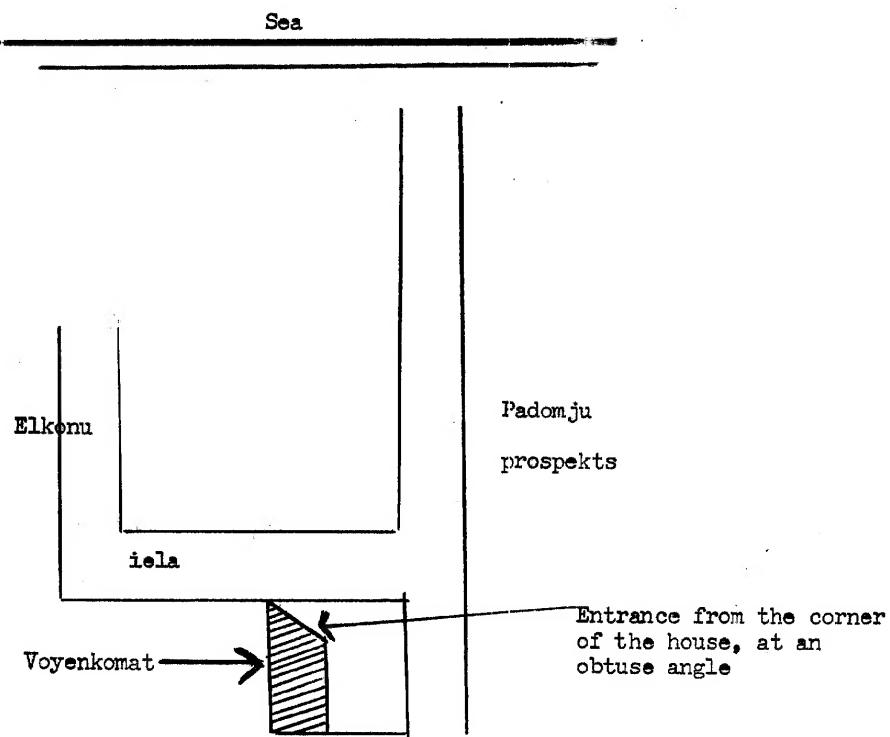
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Sketch of Building of Voyenkomat in Liepaja

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